

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Edward Shean Comminey, Jr.,

Case No.: 2:19-cv-00508-JAD-NJK

Plaintiff

Order Overruling Objections

v.

[ECF Nos. 57, 58]

Sam's West Inc., et al.,

Defendants

In this premises-liability case, plaintiff Edward Shean Comminey, Jr., alleges that he was injured when the bench at a Sam's Club food court gave way as he sat on it. He objects to Magistrate Judge Nancy J. Koppe's orders: (1) denying the parties' stipulation that Comminey undergo an independent medical examination under Rule 35 because it "fails to explain why Court approval is necessary" given that parties are free to stipulate to discovery procedures without court approval under Rule 29;¹ and (2) denying Comminey's emergency motion to extend the deadline to amend his complaint because his request was based on a speculative, future need for an amendment.²

When a litigant challenges a magistrate judge's ruling on a pretrial matter like this one, he must show that the "order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law."³ The objecting party "must file and serve specific written objections" within "14 days after service of the order."⁴

"Replies

¹ ECF No. 54.

² ECF No. 56.

³ 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); LR IB 3-1(a).

⁴ LR IB 3-1(a).

1 will be allowed only with leave of the court.”⁵ “The district judge may affirm, reverse, or
2 modify in whole or in part, the magistrate judge’s order” or “remand the matter to the magistrate
3 judge with instructions.”⁶

4 Comminey posits that the magistrate judge’s denial of the stipulation was clearly
5 erroneous because Local Rule 7-1(b) requires court approval—he claims that the medical-
6 examination stipulation is not binding without it.⁷ Comminey cites no authority for his
7 proposition. Local Rule 7-1(b) provides that “[n]o stipulations relating to proceedings before the
8 court, except those set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 29, are effective until approved by the court.”
9 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 29(a) and (b) provides that “[u]nless the court orders otherwise,”
10 parties may stipulate to scheduling details for depositions and may modify “other procedures
11 governing or limiting discovery.” However, “a stipulation extending the time for any form of
12 discovery must have court approval if it would interfere with the time set for completing
13 discovery, for hearing a motion, or for trial.”⁸ Because the stipulation for a Rule 35 medical
14 examination is not “a stipulation extending the time for any form of discovery,” the magistrate
15 judge correctly determined that it did not require court approval. So I overrule Comminey’s
16 objection to that order.

17 For his second objection, Comminey argues that he will be prejudiced by having to refile
18 an extension request in two months once the defendants provide him the missing identities of the
19
20

21 ⁵ *Id.*

22 ⁶ LR IB 3-1(b).

23 ⁷ ECF No. 57 at 3-4. Defendant Qualserv Solutions, LLC, did not reply to the objection, it filed a motion to compel examination instead. ECF No. 59.

⁸ Fed. R. Civ. P. 29(b)

1 food-court manager and the associates who were working there the day he was injured.⁹ He
 2 further submits that the denial makes him “vulnerable to the Court denying a Rule 15 motion
 3 based on missing the deadline to amend”¹⁰ and that “[t]he better practice”¹¹ is to grant the
 4 extension before he has those names. However, he fails to cite a single authority to show that the
 5 magistrate judge’s order was clearly erroneous.

6 “Once the pleadings amendment deadline has passed, a moving party must satisfy
 7 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)’s ‘good cause’ standard to change the scheduling order’s
 8 deadlines before a court will consider on the merits whether Rule 15(a)’s liberal amendment
 9 standard has been satisfied.”¹² Should Comminey develop a proposed amendment, the court will
 10 consider at that time whether he meets Rule 16’s good cause standard—whether he has been
 11 diligent in seeking the amendment—and whether the amendment should be granted under Rule
 12 15(a)(2). Comminey fails to show that an extension of the amendment deadline is warranted in
 13 this case and that the magistrate judge’s order was clearly erroneous, so I overrule his objection.

14 Conclusion

15 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the plaintiff’s objections to the magistrate judge’s
 16 rulings [ECF Nos. 57, 58] are **OVERRULED**, and the Magistrate Judge’s Orders [ECF Nos.
 17 54, 56] are **AFFIRMED**.

18 Dated: May 27, 2020

19 
 20 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey

21 ⁹ ECF No. 58 at 4.

22 ¹⁰ *Id.*

23 ¹¹ ECF No. 64 at 3.

¹² *Lamberth v. Clark Cty. Sch. Dist.*, 698 F. App’x 387, 389 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 607–08 (9th Cir. 1992)).